

GEORGE WILLIAM THURMAN

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

George William Thurman, son of William Thomas Thurman and Mary Margaret Brown Thurman, was born August 11, 1843, in Larue County, Kentucky. His father died when he was eight years of age. He was the oldest of four children, three boys and one girl. He spent his boyhood in Kentucky, working on the farm during the summer and attending the public schools during the winter.

In the spring of 1860, during the agitation that finally culminated in the Civil War, he was a member of the Kentucky Home Guard, organized for the purpose of protecting the citizens of the community. In 1862, when General Bragg, followed by General Buell, made his famous raid through the state, he was called upon to carry a dispatch from Buell to Nelson at Louisville, a distance of seventy miles. Although about twenty miles of the distance he was traveling with Bragg's soldiers, he was not apprehended.

From 1863 to 1864, he attended the high school in Hardin County. In March, 1864, he started in company with several young men overland for California. He reached Salt Lake City during the summer and remained there a short time working for Bishop Hunter. From there he went to Nevada and worked for Len Wines on the overland stage lines.

Sometime in 1865, he was transferred to Fairfield in Cedar Valley, Utah. He became acquainted in Cedar Fort and obtained a position as teacher in the schools there. In 1866 he married Catherine Rodeback. That same year he went to San Pete as a soldier in the Black Hawk War.

In 1868, and 1869, he taught school in Lehi. In the spring of 1869, he went to Kentucky and brought his mother and her family out to Utah. The same autumn he was again employed in school teaching in Cedar Fort.

He returned to Lehi in the summer of 1870, and taught school until December 24, 1871. On that date he was shot by a ruffian while he was preparing a Christmas tree for his school and his death occurred the same day.